(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when the above said office is likely to start functioning in Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPNAY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Role of Independent directors in Corporate Governance

1417. SHRI S.M. LAUAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the Naresh Chandra and the Narayana Murthy Committees reports on the role of Independent Directors in companies, etc;

(b) whether Government have examined these reports;

(c) if so whether it is also a fact that the major recommendations have bee abandoned by Government with regard to Independent Directors;

(d) what steps Government would take to ensure that Independent Directors have a clear and strong role in Corporate Governance; and

(e) if so, the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA)

(a) and (b) Yesr Sir.

(c) to (e) Issues relating to management & governance in Companies are being examined as a part of comprehensive review of the Companies Act, 1956 taken up by the Government with the issuance of a Concept Paper on the website of the Ministry of Company Affairs on 04-08-2004 and subsequent constitution of an Expert Committee headed by Dr. J.J. Irani. The work of the Committee is in progress.

Registration of foreign companies

1418. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign companies operating in India since 1991, State-wise;

(b) the foreign companies registered since 2001;

(c) the profits earned by those existing foreign companies during the last five years; and

(d) the pending requests from foreign companies for registration in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA)

(a) 1353 foreign companies have been registered in India from 1st January, 1991 to 28th February, 2005. A State-wise list of such companies is given Statement (See below)

(b) 710 foreign companies have been registered from 1st January, 2001 to 28th February, 2005.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) 91 requests from foreign companies for registration are pending at present.

Statement

State-wise list of foreign companies registered

S.No	Name of the State	No. of foreign companies
1.	Delhi	638
2.	Maharashtra	369
3.	Karnataka	127
4.	Tamilnadu	87
5.	Haryana	35
6.	West Bengal	29
7.	Andhra Pradesh	24
8.	Gujarat	14
9.	Uttar Pradesh	7
10.	Kerala	6
11.	Orissa	4
12.	Bihar	3
13.	Rajasthan	3
14.	Goa	2
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Assam	1
17.	Himachal Pradesh	1
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1
	TOTAL	1353